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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9, 1998, at 12 noon.

## Senate

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1998

(Legislative day of Monday, August 31, 1998)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we begin this day with the words of the psalmist when he prayed, "I cried out, You answered me and made me bold with strength in my soul."—Psalm 138:3. We, too, cry out, asking You to make us bold because of Your strength surging in our souls. We yield our souls to be ports of entry and dwelling places for Your Spirit in us. You form our character in us and give us convictions we cannot deny. Your artesian strength makes us resolute in living the truth. We feel a boldness to speak the truth and to follow Your guidance. Exorcise any fear, timidity, or equivocation.

Father, as the Nation looks to our Senators for moral integrity and inspiration, give them a special measure of Your power, so that, from the depth of their souls, they will have Your supernatural strength to lead with courage. We have a great need for You; and You are a great God to meet our needs. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11:30 a.m. Following morning business, the Senate may consider any available appropriations bills or other legislative or executive items cleared for action. Rollcall votes are expected throughout Thursday's session as the Senate continues work on appropriations bills.

The majority leader would like to remind all Members that there are four remaining appropriations bills that the Senate must act on in the next several weeks. Continued cooperation of all Members will be necessary for the Senate to successfully complete the appropriations process.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 11:30 a.m.

Under the previous order, the Senator from Louisiana, Mr. BREAU, is recognized to speak for up to 15 minutes.

Mr. BREAU. Mr. President, I thank the Chair for recognizing me.

### PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

Mr. BREAU. Mr. President, I wish to make some comments this morning

on the issue of the Patients' Bill of Rights which we have had so much discussion and dialogue about in recent months.

As we all know in this body, the House of Representatives has actually passed a Patients' Bill of Rights. The fact that one chamber has passed legislation is the encouraging news. That is the good news. The bad news is that the Senate may not do anything about it. I think that would be unfortunate for all Americans who are concerned about making sure that their families, their children, have adequate access to quality health care in this country.

The Patients' Bill of Rights, as I said, is now pending in the Senate. The battle now becomes: Do we bring it up? How do we bring it up? What happens to it? Are we going to let election year politics determine the fate of this very important piece of health care legislation?

All of this reminds me of something we just went through not too long ago. For 4 or 5 weeks the Senate debated a tobacco bill. Do we all remember that? Do we all remember what happened to it? It never passed. It never passed because both sides were not able to get together and bridge the gap between what I consider to be relatively minor differences between the various pieces of legislation and we started blaming each other for its failure. So now we are arguing about whose fault it is that it failed instead of debating the issue of who should get credit for getting it passed.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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